

1. (currently amended) A method for performing a bypass procedure in a digestive system comprising

isolating an upper stomach portion of the stomach of a patient, to obtain an isolated upper stomach portion;

introducing an anvil adapted for use with the anastomosis instrument through a side region of the isolated upper stomach portion;

resecting the bowel of said patient to define a resected bowel portion; and

connecting the resected bowel portion and the upper stomach portion with a circular anastomosis instrument.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein isolating an upper stomach portion is conducted by utilizing a linear stapler, and wherein the upper stomach portion is cut such that a protrusion is formed on a side region of said upper stomach portion.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein introducing an anvil comprises the insertion of a surgical instrument through an opening in a bottom region of said upper stomach portion, wherein said surgical instrument comprises flexible body portion having a tip adapted to releasably attach said anvil, and wherein said flexible body portion is capable of being ~~reticulated~~ reticulated.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said anvil is attached to said tip and then carried through the upper stomach portion and positioned to rest in said opening.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein said connecting step comprises juxtaposing said bowel portion to said bottom region of said upper stomach portion by actuating a circular anastomosis stapler instrument, wherein said anvil is passed through said bottom region of said upper stomach portion and said bowel portion during said actuating of said circular anastomosis stapler instrument, thereby creating an anastomosis.

6. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said protrusion on said side region of said upper stomach portion is excised and sealed after said anvil is carried through said upper stomach portion.

7. (withdrawn) A surgical instrument designed for manipulation of a surgical component comprising a cylindrical body portion comprising a proximal end and a distal end; a flexible body portion extending from distal end, said flexible body portion being designed to rotate and articulate and said flexible body portion comprising a tip adapted for releasably attaching said surgical component; and a handle assembly attached to or integral with said proximal end.

8. (withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said handle assembly comprises an actuator whereby the moving of said actuator controls the articulating movement of said flexible body portion.

9. (withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said handle assembly comprises an adjusting knob that controls the rotating movement of the flexible body portion.

10. (withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said handle assembly comprises a pivotal handle lever that controls the release of said surgical component.

11. (withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said surgical component is an anvil of a circular anastomosis stapler.